Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended)   A method for processing orders for "own use" discount pharmaceuticals, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an order comprising a request from a buyer for a quantity of a type of pharmaceutical, wherein said buyer comprises one from a group consisting of (1) an entity comprising at least one retail pharmacy that supplies pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, and (2) at least one retail pharmacy that supplies pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical;

receiving an associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

comparing said order with said associated report to determine whether said associated report supports said order; and

responsive to said comparison if said associated report supports said order, making a status determination as to whether that said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical at a price reduced by an "own use" discount.

2.   (original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving said order further comprises receiving said order on a computer as a transmission over the internet.

3.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 2 wherein the step of receiving said associated report further comprises receiving said report as at least one computer file, and wherein the comparison step is performed by a software program executed on said computer.

4.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of converting said at least one computer file to a format readable by said ~~software program~~ computer.

5.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of entering said associated report as data into said computer, and wherein the comparison step is performed by a software program executed on said computer.

6.   (original)   The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer, said second associated report being received as at least one computer file; and

comparing said second associated report with said order or with said associated report using a computer; and

wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

7.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 6 wherein the comparing step between said second associated report and said order is performed by a software program executed on said computer, the method further comprising the step of converting said at least one computer file to a format readable by said software program ~~computer~~.

8.   (original)   The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

entering said second associated report as data into said computer; and

comparing said second associated report with said order or with said associated report using a computer; and

wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

9.   (original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of entering said order as data into a computer.

10.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of receiving said associated report further comprises receiving said report as at least one computer file, and wherein the comparison step is performed by a software program executed on said computer.

11.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of converting said at least one computer file to a format readable by said software program computer.

12.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of entering said associated report as data into said computer, and wherein the comparison step is performed by a software program executed on said computer.

13.   (original)   The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:
        receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer, said second associated report being received as at least one computer file; and
        comparing said second associated report with said order or with said associated report using a computer; and
        wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

14.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 13 wherein the comparing step between said second associated report and said order is performed by a software program executed on said computer, the method further comprising the step of converting said at least one computer file to a format readable by said software program computer.

15.   (original)   The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

entering said second associated report as data into said computer; and

comparing said second associated report with said order using a computer; and

wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order.

16.   (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1 further~~ A method for processing orders for "own use" discount pharmaceuticals, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an order comprising a request from a buyer for a quantity of a type of pharmaceutical;

receiving a first associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

receiving a second associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of said at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer; ~~and~~

analyzing said first associated report and said second associated report to determine an extent to which they support said order; ~~comparing said second associated report with said order or with said associated report,~~ and

~~wherein the determination step further depends upon whether said second associated report supports said order~~

responsive to said determined extent, making a status determination as to whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical at a price reduced by an "own use" discount.

17.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of placing said order with a pharmaceutical seller ~~if~~ in response to said status determination identifying ~~identifies~~ said buyer as qualified for said "own use" discount, said order having a price reduced by an "own use" discount.

18. (original)   The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of sending either said first associated report or said second associated report, or both said first and second associated reports, to said pharmaceutical seller.

19. (currently amended)   The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of allowing said pharmaceutical seller to have access to either said first associated report or said second associated report or both said first and second associated reports, to said pharmaceutical seller.

20. (currently amended)   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of placing said order with a pharmaceutical seller if in response to said status determination identifying identifies said buyer as qualified for said "own use" discount, said order having a price reduced by an "own use" discount.

21. (original)   The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of sending said associated report to said pharmaceutical seller.

22. (original)   The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of allowing said pharmaceutical seller to have access to said associated report.

23. (original)   The method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of generating a status report and sending said status report to said pharmaceutical seller.

24. CANCELED

25. (currently amended)   The method of claim 20 24 further comprising the step of arranging for said pharmaceutical seller to directly ship an appropriate quantity of said type of pharmaceutical directly to one of a group consisting of:

an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical;

at least one retail pharmacy supplying pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical; and

at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical.

26.   CANCELED

27.   (original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of generating a status report.

28.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 1 further comprising, in response to said comparison resulting in a status determination that said buyer does not qualify for said discount, adjusting said order so that said order is supported by said associated report if said comparison results in a status determination that said buyer does not qualify for said discount.

29.   (original)   The method of claim 28 wherein the step of adjusting said order comprises calculating a stand by requirement for said buyer.

30.   (currently amended)   A pharmaceutical order auditing system for determining whether a pharmaceutical buyer qualifies for an "own use" discount, said pharmaceutical order auditing system comprising:

a first input for receiving pharmaceutical order data, said order data comprising a type of pharmaceutical, a quantity of said type of pharmaceutical, and a buyer requesting said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical;

a second input for receiving audit data, said audit data being sufficient for a status determination of whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity at a price reduced by an "own use" discount;

a processor;

software that is executed on said processor, the software being configured to (1) confirm whether said buyer is any of a group consisting of (a) an entity comprised of at least one retail pharmacy that supplies pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, and (b) at least one retail pharmacy that supplies pharmaceuticals to at least one nursing home, said at least one nursing home having at least one patient needing said type of pharmaceutical, and (2) compare said order data with said audit data to make a status determination whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity at said reduced price, said status determination depending upon said confirmation and said comparison between said order data and said audit data; and

an output for communicating said status determination to a user.

31.   CANCELED

32.   (currently amended)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 ~~31~~ wherein said audit data is gathered from one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals requested by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes.

33.   (currently amended)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 31 further comprising a third input for receiving additional audit data, said additional audit data being sufficient for a status determination of whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity at a price reduced by an "own use" discount, and wherein said software is further configured to compare said additional audit data with said order data or with said audit data in making said status determination, said status determination further depending upon said additional audit data comparison.

34.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 33 wherein said additional audit data is gathered from one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals requested by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes.

35.   (currently amended)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 31 wherein said audit data comprises a type of pharmaceutical, an amount of said type of pharmaceutical requested by each of said retail pharmacies, and each of said nursing homes requesting each of said amounts from each of said retail pharmacies, and wherein said software compares said order data with said audit data, said status determination depending upon whether said comparison between said order data and said audit data results in a sufficient correlation between said order data and said audit data for said buyer to qualify for said discount.

36.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 35 further comprising a third input for receiving additional audit data, said additional audit data

comprising a type of pharmaceutical, an amount of said type of pharmaceutical requested by each of said retail pharmacies, and each of said nursing homes requesting each of said amounts from each of said retail pharmacies, and wherein said software compares said additional audit data with said order data or with said audit data, said status determination further depending upon said additional audit data comparison.

37.   (currently amended)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 35 wherein said order data further comprises a plurality of identifiers for each of said patients needing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical, wherein said audit data further comprises a plurality of identifiers for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes needing each of said amounts of said type of pharmaceuticals, and wherein said software is further configured to compare said patient identifiers in said audit data with said patient identifiers in said order data, said status determination further depending upon whether said patient identifier comparison results in a sufficient number of matches between said audit data patient identifiers and said order data patient identifiers.

38.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 35 further comprising a converter configured to convert said audit data to a common format.

39.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 38 wherein said audit data is gathered from one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals requested by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes.

40.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 38 further comprising a third input for receiving additional audit data, said additional audit data comprising a type of pharmaceutical, an amount of said type of pharmaceutical requested by each of said retail pharmacies, and each of said nursing homes requesting each of said amounts from each of said retail pharmacies, and wherein said software compares said additional audit data with said order data or with said audit data, said status determination further depending upon said additional audit data comparison.

41.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 40 wherein said additional audit data is gathered from one of a group consisting of:

a listing compiled by each of said retail pharmacies, each of said listings containing a record of pharmaceuticals requested by each of said nursing homes;

a physicians order sheet for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes; and

a medication administration record for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes.

42.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 40 wherein said converter is further configured to convert said additional audit data to a common format.

43.   (currently amended)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 40 wherein said order data further comprises a plurality of identifiers for each of said patients needing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical, and wherein said additional audit data further comprises each of a plurality of identifiers for said patients in each of said nursing homes needing each of said amounts of said type of pharmaceuticals, and wherein said software is further configured to compare said patient identifiers in said additional audit data with said patient identifiers in said order data, said status determination further depending upon whether

said patient identifier comparison results in a sufficient number of matches between said additional audit data patient identifiers and said order data patient identifiers.

44.   (currently amended)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 38 wherein said order data further comprises a plurality of identifiers for each of said patients needing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical, and wherein said audit data further comprises a plurality of identifiers for each of said patients in each of said nursing homes needing each of said amounts of said type of pharmaceuticals, and wherein said software is further configured to compare said patient identifiers in said audit data with said patient identifiers in said order data, said status determination further depending upon whether said patient identifier comparison results in a sufficient number of matches between said audit data patient identifiers and said order data patient identifiers.

45.   (currently amended)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 31 wherein said output is communicated to said user as a status report.

46.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 further comprising a third input for receiving additional audit data, said additional audit data being sufficient for a status determination of whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity at a price reduced by an "own use" discount, and wherein said software is further configured to compare said additional audit data with said order data or with said audit data in making said status determination, said status determination further depending upon said additional audit data comparison.

47.   (original)   The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30 wherein said software is further configured to allow for a tolerance in making said status determination.

48. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 30~~28~~ wherein said software is configured to adjust said order so that there is a sufficient match between said adjusted order and said audit data if said buyer does not qualify for said buyer does not qualify for said discount on the basis of said unadjusted order.

49. (original) The pharmaceutical order auditing system of claim 48 wherein said software is configured to calculate a stand by requirement for said buyer if said order needs adjustment.

50-61. CANCELED

62. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for processing pharmaceutical orders to determine whether said orders qualify for an "own use" discount, said method comprising:

determining an "own use" discount status for a proposed "own use" purchase by a buyer of a quantity of a type of pharmaceutical on the basis of a comparison between the proposed purchase and information that summarizes at least one "own use" pharmaceutical need of at least one patient who is supplied with the pharmaceutical by the buyer; and

wherein said buyer comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (1) a retail pharmacy that supplies pharmaceuticals to at least one hospital, nursing home, or long term health care facility where said at least one patient resides, and (2) an entity comprising a plurality of said retail pharmacies.

63. (currently amended) The method of claim 62 wherein said information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of information from a retail pharmacy that summarizes a pharmaceutical need by at least one hospital, nursing home, or long term health care facility where said at least one patient resides, information from at least one physician order sheet (POS), and information from at least one medication administration record (MAR).

64.   (previously presented) The method of claim 63 wherein said information comprises information from at least one POS and information from at least one MAR.

65.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 63 wherein said buyer comprises ~~at least one~~ said retail pharmacy ~~that supplies pharmaceuticals to at least one hospital, nursing home, or long-term health-care facility~~.

66.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 63 wherein said buyer comprises ~~at least~~ said entity ~~comprising a plurality of retail pharmacies that supply pharmaceuticals to at least one hospital, nursing home, or long-term health-care facility~~.

67.   CANCELED

68.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 63 further comprising:
        if said quantity for said proposed purchase does not qualify for an "own use" discount, (1) determining, on the basis of said comparison, a subquantity of said quantity that does qualify for said "own use" discount and (2) adjusting said quantity for said proposed purchase to match said subquantity.

69.   (currently amended)   A system for determining whether a pharmaceutical buyer qualifies for an "own use" discount, said system comprising:
        a computer configured to perform an "own use" audit on a pharmaceutical order to determine whether said order qualifies for an "own use" discount, said audit being based on at least two types of audit data that are compared to said order.

70.   (currently amended)   The system of claim 74 ~~69~~ further comprising:
        a second computer in communication with said ~~auditing~~ computer via a network, said second computer being configured to provide said ~~auditing~~ computer with said retail pharmacy listing ~~information that summarizes at least one "own use" pharmaceutical need of at least one~~

~~patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by the buyer~~, and wherein the ~~auditing~~ computer is further configured to perform said "own use" audit by comparing said order with said <u>said retail pharmacy listing</u> ~~information~~.

71.   (currently amended)   The system of claim 70 wherein said <u>nursing home data</u> ~~information~~ comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of information from a physician order sheet (POS) corresponding to said at least one patient and information from a medication administration record (MAR) corresponding to said at least one patient.

72.   (previously presented) The system of claim 71 wherein said buyer is one of a group consisting of:

        an entity comprising a plurality of retail pharmacies that supply pharmaceuticals to at least one hospital, nursing home, or long term health care facility;

        at least one retail pharmacy that supplies pharmaceuticals to at least one hospital, nursing home, or long term health care facility;
        at least one hospital;
        at least one nursing home; and
        at least one long term health care facility.

73.   (currently amended)   The system of claim 69 wherein said order comprises an order for a quantity of pharmaceuticals, and wherein the computer is further configured to perform said "own use" audit by:
        <u>in response to said audit resulting in a determination that</u> ~~if~~ said quantity for said order does not qualify for an "own use" discount, determining whether a subquantity of said quantity does qualify for said "own use" discount; and
        <u>in response to said subquantity determining step resulting in a determination that</u> ~~if~~ a subquantity of said quantity does qualify for said "own use" discount, adjusting said quantity for said order to match said subquantity.

74.   (new)   The system of claim 69 wherein said at least two types of audit data comprise:

a retail pharmacy listing that summarizes the pharmaceutical needs of a nursing home to which that retail pharmacy supplies pharmaceuticals; and

data from the nursing home that summarizes a pharmaceutical need of at least one patient of that nursing home.

75.   (new)   A system for determining whether a pharmaceutical buyer qualifies for an "own use" discount, said system comprising:

a computer configured to perform an "own use" audit on a pharmaceutical order to determine whether said order qualifies for an "own use" discount;

wherein said order comprises an order for a quantity of pharmaceuticals; and

wherein the computer is further configured to perform said "own use" audit by: (1) in response to said audit resulting in a determination that said quantity for said order does not qualify for an "own use" discount, determining whether a subquantity of said quantity does qualify for said "own use" discount, and (2) in response to said subquantity determining step resulting in a determination that a subquantity of said quantity does qualify for said "own use" discount, adjusting said quantity for said order to match said subquantity.

76.   (new)   A method for processing orders for "own use" discount pharmaceuticals, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an order comprising a request from a buyer for a quantity of a type of pharmaceutical;

receiving an associated report summarizing the "own use" pharmaceutical needs of at least one patient who is supplied with pharmaceuticals by said buyer;

comparing said order with said associated report to determine whether said associated report supports said order;

responsive to said comparison, making a status determination as to whether said buyer qualifies for purchasing said quantity of said type of pharmaceutical at a price reduced by an "own use" discount; and

responsive to said comparison resulting in a status determination that said buyer does not qualify for said discount, adjusting said order so that said order is supported by said associated report.

77.   (new) The method of claim 76 wherein the step of adjusting said order comprises calculating a stand by requirement for said buyer.

78.   (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said information comprises at least two selected from the group consisting of information from a retail pharmacy that summarizes a pharmaceutical need by at least one hospital, nursing home, or long term health care facility where said at least one patient resides, information from at least one physician order sheet (POS), and information from at least one medication administration record (MAR).

79.   (new) The method of claim 16 wherein said first associated report comprises listing from a retail pharmacy that summarizes the pharmaceutical needs of a nursing home to which that retail pharmacy supplies pharmaceuticals, and wherein said second associated report comprises data from the nursing home that summarizes a pharmaceutical need of at least one patient of that nursing home.

80.   (new) The method of claim 79 wherein the second associated report data comprises data from a physician order sheet (POS) or data from a medication administration record (MAR).